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Venezuela opposition challenges post-Chavez vote

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela's opposition yesterday challenged the results of last month's presidential poll won by the late Hugo Chavez's successor, further muddying an already messy transition to life without the divisive leader.

The center-right opposition in the oil-rich South American nation filed its formal challenge with the Supreme Court, even though it says the tribunal is loaded with pro-Chavez judges and certain to reject the challenge.

Opposition coalition official Ramon Jose Medina said the complaint alleges "bribery, violence and fraud" throughout the electoral process that ended in victory for Chavez heir Nicolas Maduro over rival Henrique Capriles.

This step was in essence a necessary formality before the opposition takes its case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights -- part of the Organization of American States.

Maduro, a former bus driver, won the April 14 election by a slim margin of just

1.5 percentage points, according to the National Electoral Council.

But Capriles has cited multiple irregularities and said the government stole the snap election called after Chavez died of cancer in March.

An audit launched by the election council Monday is a superficial "farce" because it is only examining the electronic voting system itself and not physical records of the April election, Capriles said Wednesday.

Tensions have been running very high since the election to replace Chavez.

In protests right after last month's voting, at least nine people died and dozens more were injured.

Opposition and pro-government lawmakers fought with their fists and their feet in a spectacular brawl in congress on Tuesday. And the two sides held dueling May Day marches on Wednesday, with Maduro calling Capriles a "crybaby" who could not accept defeat.

Aruba - proud participant at investiture of Dutch King and royal festivities



Aruba played a significant role in the ceremonies of the investiture of our new King, at the abdication protocol and at the solemn ceremony in the Great Church in Amsterdam. In the Great Church, Aruba was represented by members of the Aruba Parliament. Parliament members present were: President Paul Croes, fraction leader Rene Herde, Lorna Janssen-Varlack, Desiree Croes, Marlon Sneek, Juan David Yrausquin, Melvin Tromp, Marisol Lopez-Tromp, Mervin Wyatt-Ras, Andin Bikker and Parliament registrar, Mrs. Bastien. Each Parliament member pledged loyalty to the new King Willem-Alexander.

Seated in the church were

Governor of Aruba Freddy Refunjol, Prime Minister Mike Eman, and Minister Plenipotenciary Edwin Abath. Following the ceremony, they all attended the festive

party in the Palace on the dam to celebrate the historic change of the throne. Aruba is extremely proud of her ties with the Dutch Kingdom.

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RBC Royal Bank's 4th edition of ART RULES ARUBA launches application form! Kids APPLY NOW!



Kip sisters

The number one international and educational summer Arts program of Aruba is back. Introducing a new website, new workshops, new teachers and San Nicolas as the location to teach over 250 young aspiring Aruban artists about the world of Arts.

With international Artists coming from abroad teaching different Art disciplines this year's disciplines include Theater, Dance, Creative Media,



Street Art, Fashion, Poetry & Spoken Word, Music & Performance, DJ and the bonus workshop Culinary Arts.

It all starts on July 15th in an intensive 2-week summer program at Abraham de Veer College with full time classes for each discipline. For students to get to the school, producers from the Pancake Gallery foundation are providing bus transportation from Cas di Cultura everyday to Abraham de Veer making a few stops on the way to San Nicolas.

Since Art Rules Aruba launched it's application form

last week during the press conference at RBC Royal Bank, over 50 students have already signed up to the program. So far Dance, Music & Performance and Theater have been the more popular classes kids are signing up for followed by DJ but the Pancake Gallery is not worried, "by June most of the classes will be filled up, with a high volume of applicants for this years Bonus workshop, Culinary Arts. "The class is getting a lot of people excited." Therefore the Pancake Gallery is advising kids everywhere to sign up on time!

A lot of newness this year for Art Rules with not only a new bonus workshop but also the new discipline Creative Media which has become a combination of the former Photography and film workshops. "Nowadays kids are so multidisciplinary when it comes to digital art, they know how to not only take pictures or do a photo shoot, they film, they edit, they produce and direct".

For this reason the Pancake Gallery decided that a combination of disciplines would be a great way to teach students techniques based on the multi-talented and not just having the talent to do one thing.

Continued on page 5

Sara-Quita Offringa receives royal decoration



tative of her great accomplishments. She has achieved expectations higher than any athlete of the island of Aruba - six times champion of the world! Aruba is extremely proud of her.

Parents and siblings of Sara Quita were present for the royal occasion to celebrate the lovely and unique moment with her.

Congratulations Sara Quita and do continue with the good work!

In a lovely ceremony at Aruba House in the Netherlands, Governor Refunjol presided over the ceremonial act of presenting Aruba's athlete, Sara-Quita Offringa the Royal Decoration. The first class windsurfer has become "Ridder in the Orde van Oranje Nassau," (a chivalry order open to everyone who has earned special merits for society). This is certainly a high honor for such a young athlete, a well deserved recognition.

The Prime Minister remarked that the decoration given Sara Quita is represen-

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Aruba's #1 May Day tradition: A day at the Royal Dutch Marine Camp in Savaneta

The occasion of International Labor Day, May 1, is joyously anticipated, as islanders look forward to a day spent interacting with the Royal Dutch Marines stationed at the camp in Savaneta. Charged with the protection of the island as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and ready to assist at any time in case of a man made calamity, (such as a commercial plane crash) or natural

disaster, the Royal Dutch Marines also look forward to welcoming islanders to the camp during their annual open house.

The entire camp is turned into an informative theme park, where the every day duties and training of the marines and the Aruba Militia, or Arumil, become exciting attractions, which visitors can try at no cost. The camp was divided into 28 entertain-

ment areas, which included a main stage featuring a parade of popular local musical performers. Throughout the day, dramatic re-enactments of a beach invasion, air invasion and the coordinated staging with the local police of a drug bust, provided exciting entertainment.

Countless food and refreshment vendors, and one of Aruba's largest flea markets, enhance the street fair ambiance, while all fees paid for setting up the stands are donated to a local charity. The entire day is not only a chance for the native community and the marines stationed here to connect, but is also a major fundraising effort, which has assisted the elderly, mentally challenged, and child care facilities on the island for more than a decade.

This year, visitors also received a special copy upon entering the camp of a colorful Dutch publication celebrating 525 years of the Royal Dutch Navy and Marines. "Alle Hens" traces the growth of the Royal Dutch Navy through "525 years of innovation" from their domination of the seas to the modern and diverse armed force they are today.

May 1, Labor Day is one of the most fun holidays for Arubans, specifically because of the fantastic Open House at the Savaneta Marine Camp.

Rosalie Klein



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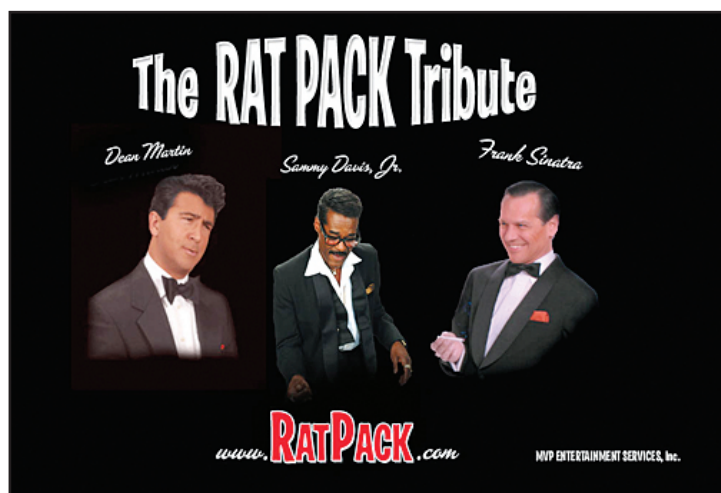
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Ruth's Chris celebrates 5th anniversary with "Rat Pack Tribute" dinner show

4-course plated dinner and live entertainment



Ruth's Chris steak

In honor of Ruth's Chris Steak House 5th anniversary, the steak house will host a special event on Monday May 6th, a "Rat Pack tribute" dinner show with live entertainment by Michelangelo and trio, performing hits of the trio Dean Martin, Sami Davis Jr. and Frank Sinatra.

For the occasion Ruth's Chris offers a 4-course set plated dinner menu at \$75 per person including New Orleans style barbecued shrimps, traditional Caesar salad, Ruth's Chris famous sizzling petite filet accompanied with creamed spinach and mashed potatoes and to

top it off a heavenly crème brulee as dessert.

The 5th anniversary celebration is on Monday May 6 and starts at 6:00 pm with a red carpet welcome followed by the dinner show. Michelangelo and trio will entertain you with "Rat Pack's" favorite songs throughout the evening.

Advanced reservations are required for the event and can be arranged by calling 520 6600 or 520 6225.

Ruth's Chris team looks forward to welcome you to celebrate their 5th anniversary.

FDA adds Lionfish to list of fish that may carry ciguatoxins

Issues ciguatera guidelines for industry

Recently, the federal government warned fish processors to take safety precautions with species that carry a risk of ciguatera fish poisoning (CFP).

In a draft guidance for industry published in the Federal Register, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration listed the types of fish that have been found to harbor ciguatoxins, including two species of lionfish that had not previously been named as a potential CFP threat.

Ciguatoxins are produced by an algae that grows in coral reefs and are found in the highest concentrations in the muscle tissue, organs, and fat of tropical or subtropical predatory reef fish, according to the Florida Department of Health.

CFP is usually characterized by nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and neurological symptoms including tingling of the lips and extremities and a reversal of one's sensation of hot and cold. These neurological symptoms can last for years after exposure to the toxin.

Ciguatoxins cause more illnesses worldwide than any other marine toxin in the world, and are most common in large predatory fish in the Caribbean Sea, the South Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

In its draft guidance, FDA refers fish processors to its Fish and Fishery Products Hazards and Controls Guidance, also known as The Guide, for a list of the fish that may carry dangerous levels of ciguatoxins. These in-

clude certain species of barracuda, grouper, scamp, amberjack, snapper, hind, hogfish, jobfish, pompano, jacks and trevally, wrasse, mackerel, tang, moray eels and parrotfish, according to The Guide.

With its new guidance, FDA has added two species of lionfish (Pterois volitans and Pterois miles) to those that may pose a CFP threat.

"We have also found CFP toxins in lionfish (Pterois volitans and Pterois miles) collected in waters surrounding the U.S. Virgin Islands," says the agency in the document. "However, as of January 2013, there have been no reports of CFP illnesses associated with the consumption of lionfish."

FDA urges primary seafood processors to be aware of potential ciguatoxin risks associated with fish they are purchasing from harvesters.

The agency's HACCP guidelines for fish call for



species from at-risk areas to be discarded.

Cooking fish does not kill ciguatoxins, which are heat stable and odor free, and there is no known cure for CFP. Therefore the best way to avoid CFP is to be aware of any ciguatoxin risk in the areas from which a fish is harvested.

"CFP occurrence is sporadic in reef areas, so you have to rely on local knowledge of areas that have a history of problems," said Ken Gall, a seafood technology specialist for the New York Sea Grant at Cornell University Extension in an emailed statement to Food Safety News last month.

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ART RULES ARUBA launches application form!

Continued from page 2



more and more people are backing up and showing their support to the program to help make it successful, understanding that Art Rules Aruba can and will do something meaningful for young kids everywhere on the island. "Keeping them off the streets and productive during the summer", explained by the department of Justice and Education.

Baptized into the name Art Rules Pariba, the program kicks off on July 15th and run for 2 weeks through July 26th with a final showcase on July 27th. Want to be part of the program?

Visit www.artrulesaruba.com and find out everything about the workshops, the teachers, the location, updates and of course how to apply!

RBC presents Art Rules Aruba 2013 is also powered by Aruba Airport Authority, Prins Bernard Cultuur Fonds Caribisch gebied, La Trattoria El Faro Blanco, La Cabana Beach Resort, Playa Linda Beach Resort, Caribbean Palm Village Resorts and Marketing Plus. If you would also like to support and become an official partner to the project please send an email to info@pancakegallery.com

Also adding the fact that the project is taking place in San Nicolas, the program is being offered in a part of the island that is an amazing backdrop for an Arts Program. "Exploring and experiencing Arts in San Nicolas means learning how to create from a place that may not have a lot of recourse, it has history, it has stories, it has soul, it has culture in both a painful and beautiful manner; these are the things that inspire the best amongst us", explains the Pancake Gallery.

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Dutch have a new queen of fashion, Queen Maxima



On Tuesday, the Dutch celebrated the coronation of a new king and queen of the Netherlands, King Willem-Alexander and his wife, Queen Maxima. With her fashion choices for the events in Amsterdam leading up to the coronation, which included the signing of the abdication of Willem's mother, Queen Beatrix, earlier in the day, and a state dinner on Monday night, the statuesque blond royal Maxima, 41, proved what many in Europe already know: She is a fashion force to be reckoned with on the world stage.

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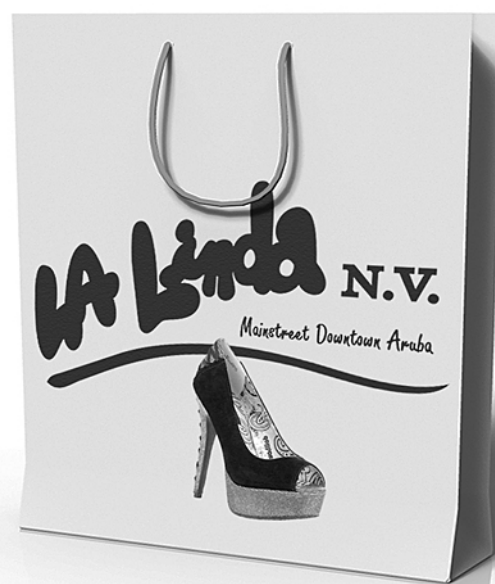
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International news

Colombia rebels go global in drive for jailed leader

HAVANA (AFP) - Colombia's leftist FARC rebels yesterday urged international pressure on the United States for it to free a jailed guerrilla leader so he can take part in peace talks with the Bogota government.

Simon Trinidad was extradited to the United States in 2004 over the kidnapping of three Americans, and is serving a 60-year jail term.

The FARC and the government began the peace talks in Havana in November, and the guerrillas have been pressing Washington to pardon Trinidad

and let him take part in these negotiations to end Latin America's last insurgency. The Americans have refused.

The head of the guerrilla delegation, Ivan Marquez, read a statement yesterday appealing for "international solidarity" with Trinidad.

Marquez also read what he was said was a US diplomatic cable released by secret-spilling website WikiLeaks that says there were no criminal charges in the United States that justified Trinidad's extradition.

60 die in Darfur gold mine collapse

KHARTOUM (AFP) - More than 60 workers were killed when an unlicensed desert gold mine collapsed in an area of Sudan's Darfur where hundreds died in fighting over the precious commodity in January-February, the district chief said yesterday.

It was not known how many people may still be missing after Monday's accident in Jebel Amir district, more than 200 kilometers (125 miles) northwest of the North Darfur state capital El Fasher.

Production from unofficial gold mines has become a key revenue source for Sudan's cash-strapped government.

It is also a tempting but dangerous occupation for residents of Sudan's poverty-stricken western region of Darfur which has been devastated by a decade of civil war.

"The number of people who died is more than 60," said Haroun al-Hassan, local commissioner for Jebel Amir, adding that rescue operations were still taking place.

"I cannot give exact figures because no one got precise numbers of how many people were going inside the tunnel," which descends 40 metres, he said.

Rescuers were using hand tools to try to reach the victims, he said, without specifying whether anyone might still be alive.

"We cannot use machines because if they came near, the ground will collapse. People are using traditional tools and because of this, the rescue is very slow," Hassan said, unable to give more details.

A humanitarian source said earlier this year that close to 70,000 people were digging for gold in Jebel Amir.

They risk their lives, maybe striking gold but often coming up empty.

US surprised by Bolivian expulsion of USAID

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Bolivia's decision to expel USAID came as a shock to the United States, as no one in Evo Morales' government had complained about the US development agency's activities, a US official said yesterday.

Meddling in Bolivia's internal affairs was the stated reason for the decision announced Wednesday by President Morales, although he did not specify just how the agency was interfering.

Now, nine US experts working in South America's poorest country in education, health and environmental programs will presumably have to leave, said Mark Lopes, USAID's deputy assistant administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean.

USAID had heard there was grumbling within the Morales government about it but "we always found cooperative partners and government officials within all levels of government," Lopes said.

The agency had a budget of \$26 million in Bolivia last year.

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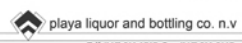
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Obama names Chicago tycoon as commerce chief

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama yesterday nominated billionaire Hyatt hotels heiress and major Democratic campaign contributor Penny Pritzker as his new commerce secretary.

Filling out his second term economics team, Obama also named Michael Froman, currently his top advisor on international economics, to be US Trade Representative, as his administration tries to boost US exports.

The choice of Pritzker, a member of a prominent Chicago business dynasty who staked out her own success in real estate, was unsurprising -- her name had been circulating for months as a likely nominee.

After having helped Obama raise millions for his initial White House run as his national finance chairwoman, Pritzker had been tipped to be commerce secretary in his first term.

But amid some controversy over her fortune, her family's use of loopholes to pay low tax rates, and objections from unions over Hyatt's relations with its workers, she announced shortly after the election that she would not take the job at that time.

Four years later, Obama apparently feels that it will now be easier to get the necessary support in the US Senate for her confirmation.

Pritzker, who turned 54 on Thursday, "is one of our country's most distinguished business leaders," Obama said.

Pritzker earned graduate degrees in law and business administration from Stanford University, after getting an undergraduate degree in economics at Harvard.

Her father, Donald Pritzker, was one of the cofounders of the Hyatt hotel chain.

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Health & Living

Over 270,000 pedestrians killed each year: WHO

GENEVA (AFP) - More than 270,000 pedestrians are killed on the world's roads each year, the World Health Organisation said Thursday, slamming decades of neglect in favour of vehicle transportation.

The UN health agency underlined that pedestrian victims make up 22 percent of the total 1.24 million people killed annually in road traffic accidents around the globe.

"More than 5,000 pedestrians are killed on the world's roads each week. This is because their needs have been neglected for decades, often in favour of motorised transport," said Etienne Krug, head of the WHO's injury prevention department.

"We need to rethink the way we organise our transport systems to make walking safe and



save pedestrian lives," he said in a statement.

Pedestrians are among the most vulnerable road users, the WHO said.

It pointed to studies showing that males -- whether children or adults -- make up a high proportion of pedestrian deaths and injuries.

In developed countries,

older pedestrians are more at risk, while in low-income and middle-income countries, children and young adults are often affected.

The proportion of pedestrians killed in relation to other road users is highest in Africa, at 38 percent, and lowest in Southeast Asia, where the figure is 12 percent.

"We are all pedestrians, and governments should put in place measures to better protect all of us," said Oleg Chestnov, head of the WHO's non-communicable diseases and mental health division.

"This will not only save lives, but create the conditions needed to make walking safe. When roads are safe, people will walk more, and this in turn will improve health and protect the environment," he added.

The WHO recommends a mix of enforcement, engineering and education measures to improve pedestrian safety.

They include boosting laws against speeding, drinking and driving, and mobile phone use at the wheel, as well as providing pavements, underpasses and decent road lighting, better public transport and improved design with soft vehicle fronts that reduce impact damage.

Dutchman fined for selling horsemeat as 'halal beef'

THE HAGUE (AFP) - A Dutch businessman under investigation in a Europe-wide probe into a horse-for-beef food scandal on Thursday was given a suspended sentence and fined 50,000 euros for selling horsemeat as Islamic halal-slaughtered beef in France.

A district court in Den Bosch on appeal ordered Jan Fasen, 63, to pay the 50,000 euro (\$66,000) fine and also slapped him with a six-month sentence suspended for two years.

"The suspect for two years bought horsemeat in Brazil and Mexico after which it was sold on paper as halal-slaughtered beef," the court said in a statement. "The meat was sold to French suppliers," it added but did not give specific names.

Based in the southern Dutch city of Breda, Fasen was originally handed a one-year prison sentence with three months suspended in January 2012, but prosecutors appealed for a longer jail term.

Judges in the appeals case however said Thursday it could not be proved that Fasen profited from the sales of the "halal meat" and that public health was not endangered by his actions.

Fasen is the director of the

Cyprus-based meat trading company called Draap Trading which several British and Dutch media reports in February fingered as a suspected link between Romanian abattoirs and a French supplier.

A broader criminal investigation against Fasen and his company in this regard "was still under way and could take several more weeks," a Public Prosecutor spokeswoman Marieke van der Molen told AFP.

Earlier this month the European Commission said thousands of DNA tests on European beef products have revealed extensive food fraud across the European Union, with almost one in 20 meats marketed as beef likely to be tainted with horse.

Since the scare exploded in Britain and France in early February, governments have scrambled to figure out how the mislabelling occurred which saw thousands of meat products being pulled off shelves across the continent.

Preventing Salmonella

--Salmonellosis is caused by a number of Salmonella bacteria. According to the World Health Organization, more than 2,500 types of Salmonella bacteria exist, but the most common are Salmonella typhimurium and Salmonella enteritidis. Salmonella bacteria are transmitted through contaminated food products, such as raw or undercooked poultry, raw eggs, raw or undercooked beef, and unpasteurized milk. They can also be found on unwashed fruit or in food that is prepared on surfaces that were in contact with raw foods and not properly washed. Reptiles are prone to carrying certain Salmonella bacteria, so you might get infected if you have a pet snake or turtle. Salmonellosis affects the intestinal tract and causes nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, fever, abdominal cramps, and headache. Most people with salmonellosis feel better in four to seven days without treatment, although severe diarrhea can require hospitalization for rehydration therapy. In rare cases, Salmonella bacteria can travel from the intestines to other organs in the body via the bloodstream, which could lead to death if left untreated. But even in those severe cases, treatment with antibiotics will lead to a complete recovery. A small number of people with salmonellosis will develop a condition called Reiter's syndrome, a type of reactive arthritis that can cause painful joints, eye irritation, and painful urination. Reiter's syndrome symptoms can last for months or years and can lead to chronic arthritis.

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Sci-Tech

More videogame players moving online: survey

WASHINGTON (AFP) - More than seven in 10 Americans who play videogames are now doing so online, a survey showed Thursday.

The NPD Group study showed the figure of 72 percent of online gamers was up five percentage points from a year earlier.

Along with the rise in online gaming, there was also an increase in the number of hours spent playing games across various devices. The rise was nine percent overall and six percent for online games.

"Besides the size of the gaming audience and sales performance, one of the key metrics for the industry to watch is the time gamers

spend playing games," said Liam Callahan, an NPD industry analyst.

"This study found that the overall amount of time spent gaming, and time spent gaming online increased across virtually every type of device, and notably so, versus 2012."

The PC ranked as the top platform for online gaming, with 68 percent using that device. But PC gaming use was down four percent and online gaming on mobile devices grew by 12 percentage points since last year.

A total of 62 percent of those surveyed said they preferred games in the physical format, down three percent from a year earlier.

"While many gamers prefer games in the physical format, the increased availability of digital content paired with a greater amount of connected devices has driven an increase in the number of consumers going online to access the content they want," said Callahan.

NPD surveyed 8,867 individuals in an online survey between February 15 and March 4.

SARS-like virus kills 5 Saudis: ministry

RIYADH (AFP) - Five Saudis have died of a new SARS-like virus during the past few days and two more are being treated in an intensive care unit, the health ministry said.

In a statement cited by the Saudi SPA agency late on Wednesday, the ministry said that all the deaths as well as the infections occurred in the Ahsaa province in the oil-rich eastern region of the kingdom.

Known as novel coronavirus or hCoV-EMC, the virus was first detected in mid-2012 and is a cousin of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which triggered a scare 10 years ago when it erupted in east Asia, leaping to humans from animal hosts.

hCoV-EMC stands for human coronavirus-Erasmus Medical Centre, after the Dutch health institution that identified it.

The health ministry said it is taking "all precautionary measures for persons who have been in contact with the infected people... and has taken samples from them to examine if they are infected."

However, the ministry gave no figures for how many people

have been examined to see if they have the lethal disease.

Sixteen people have now died from 23 cases detected in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Germany and Britain.

Riyadh has accounted for most of the deaths, with 11 people including the five new fatalities.

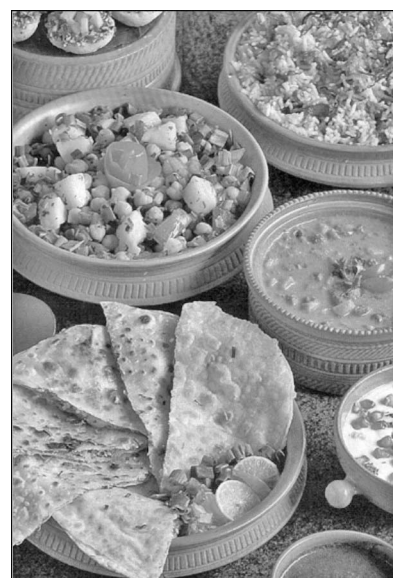
Coronaviruses cause most common colds and pneumonia, but are also to blame for unusual conditions such as SARS which killed more than 800 people when it swept out

of China in 2003.

The new virus is different from SARS, in that it can cause rapid kidney failure.

The strain is shrouded in mystery, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) does not yet know how it is transmitted or how widespread it is.

Last month, scientists reported in Nature magazine that the virus appears to infect the body via a docking point in lung cells, and suggested that bats may be a natural reservoir for it.



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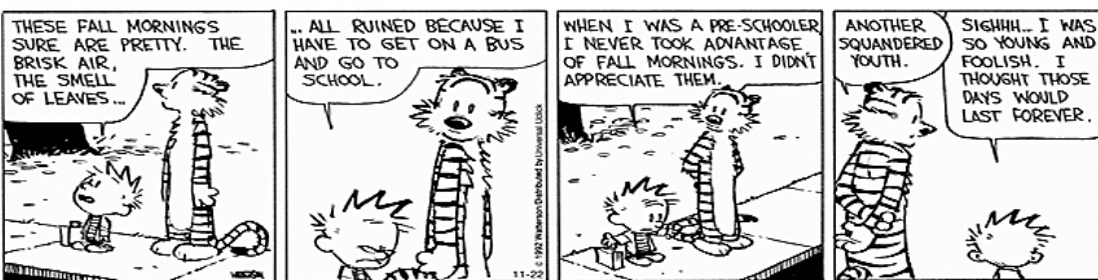
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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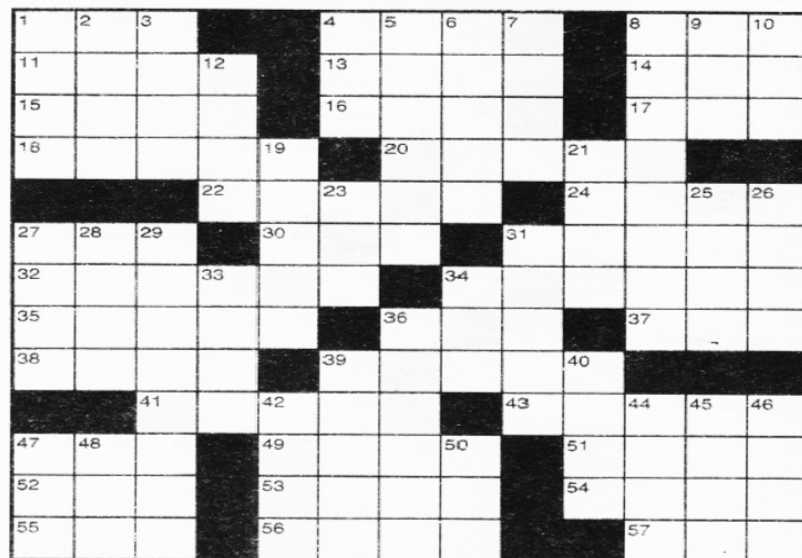


ACROSS

1. NYC summer setting
4. Papa's partner
8. LP abbr.
11. Stead
13. Milky stone
14. Width of Shaq's shoes
15. Blanc and Ott
16. British title
17. Grabbed the bait
18. Derives (from)
20. "Crazy" singer
22. Greek letter
24. ___ mater
27. Delivery option (abbr.)
30. Ending for suburban or meteor
31. Office worker, at times
32. Shines
34. Show mercy
35. Raise with effort
36. "___ It Be" (Beatles song)
37. Dentist's degree (abbr.)
38. Store special
39. Baseball's Johnny ___
41. In a snit
43. Native of India, perhaps
47. Wedding words (2 wds.)
49. Sikorsky or Stravinsky
51. Exclamations
52. Charged
53. Harriet, to Ozzie
54. Domicile
55. "___ Impossible"
56. Facts, informally
57. And not
58. Staged a mutiny
59. Canadian prov.
60. Ran across
61. Sch. for officers
62. Slug's trail
63. Apprehend
64. Liquid measures (abbr.)
65. Fix
66. Painting and music
67. Sounds of disgust
68. Earnest request
69. Zoo cut-ups (2 wds.)
70. Go get
71. Declare firmly

DOWN

1. Shade sources
2. The South Beach ___
3. Prefix for gram
4. "The Simpsons" tavern owner
5. Southwestern Indian
6. Actress Gibbs of "The Jeffersons"
7. "___ Know" (2 wds.)
8. Staged a mutiny
9. Canadian prov.
10. Ran across
11. Sch. for officers
12. Slug's trail
13. Apprehend
14. Liquid measures (abbr.)
15. Fix
16. Painting and music
17. Sounds of disgust
18. Earnest request
19. Zoo cut-ups (2 wds.)
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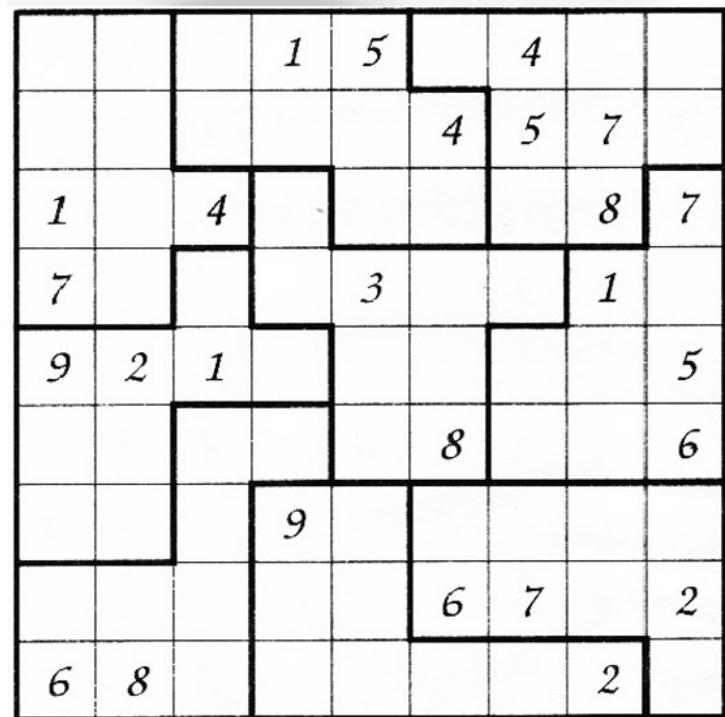
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	2	1	5	4	3	8	9	7
2	5	4	9	8	6	1	7	3
8	7	6	1	9	2	5	3	4
9	6	2	8	1	4	5	7	3
5	8	4	7	9	1	2	6	3
7	1	9	6	5	2	8	3	4
4	8	6	5	2	3	7	9	1
1	2	5	7	6	8	9	4	3
3	9	7	2	1	4	6	8	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Oil prices recover on US jobless data

LONDON (AFP) - Oil prices rebounded slightly Thursday on positive US jobs data and from sharp falls in previous days amid weaker global demand for crude.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in June jumped \$1.06 to \$101.01 a barrel in late London trading.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for June grew 82 cents to \$91.85 a barrel.

"After precipitous falls in the past two days we've seen a little bit of a bounce back in both Brent and WTI oil prices, no doubt helped by the better-than-expected US jobless claims data," said Michael Hewson, senior analyst at CMC Markets trading group.

New claims for US unemployment benefits fell for last week to a five-year low, the US Labor Department said Thursday.

Initial jobless claims, an indicator of the pace of layoffs, fell by 18,000 to 324,000 in the week ending April 27, the department said.

That was the lowest level since mid-January 2008, when claims totalled 321,000. Analysts on average had expected claims to rise to 346,000.

Oil prices had meanwhile closed down by more than \$2.40 Wednesday on fresh signs of economic weakness in the United States and China --

the world's largest crude consumers.

A US oil inventory report on Wednesday showed crude stocks increasing by 6.7 million barrels for the week ending April 26, far above the 800,000-barrel forecast by analysts.

This brought inventory stocks to a 395.3-million total, the highest weekly figure since the US Energy Information Administration began collecting the data in 1982.

A rise in inventory stocks indicates weak energy demand and puts a downward pressure on prices.

Separate data this week has showed a slowdown for US and Chinese manufacturing activity.

Royal Dutch Shell says boss to retire

LONDON (AFP) - Royal Dutch Shell's chief executive Peter Voser will retire next year, the energy giant said in a surprise announcement, as it also unveiled a drop in first-quarter net profits blamed on lower crude oil prices.

In a message to staff, Voser said he wanted to spend more time with his family and change his lifestyle, after more than 25 years working for the London-listed energy major during two spells.

Voser, 54, has been chief executive since July 2009. Shell said it would review internal and external candidates to find a successor.

The outgoing boss added that he would maintain a "limited" number of non-executive roles at other companies.

ECB cuts rates to record low

BRATISLAVA (AFP) - The European Central Bank cut interest rates to a new record low on Thursday amid a chorus of calls for the eurozone to focus on growth to end a "nightmare of unemployment" in the bloc.

A day after May Day demonstrations across Europe for an end to punishing austerity in favour of policies to spur growth, the ECB shaved a quarter point off its key "refi" refinancing rate to a new record low of 0.50 percent.

The widely expected move was by no means unanimous on the ECB's policy-setting governing council, central bank chief Mario Draghi revealed.

But despite the divisions,

Draghi vowed to keep rates low for as long as needed and could take further action again if necessary.

The ECB meeting came as a debate resurfaces over whether German-led austerity policies are the best medicine for the recession-wracked eurozone, now in the third year of its crippling debt crisis.

New Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta, who has vowed to spearhead the drive towards more growth-friendly policies, said on Thursday that a plan was needed within weeks to end the "nightmare" of mounting youth unemployment.

Speaking in Brussels after meeting European Commission President Jose Manuel

Barroso, Letta said: "Youth unemployment, that is the real nightmare of my country and the EU."

But the head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, weighed into the debate saying she saw no alternative to austerity championed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"What is the alternative?" asked Lagarde.

Providing hope that the ECB might act again to stimulate the economy, Draghi repeated his comments from last month saying the ECB would "monitor very closely" incoming data and insisting the bank was "ready to act if needed."

India approves IKEA plan to open stores: officials

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The Indian government on Thursday approved a plan worth almost \$2-billion by Swedish furniture giant IKEA to open stores in India for the first time, officials said.

The Swedish firm, which submitted its application last June, hopes to open 25 stores in India through a 100-percent owned unit called Ingka Holding. It comes as part of a wider push into emerging markets such as China and Russia.

IKEA's entry into India is being closely watched as a test case for how a large foreign corporation might negotiate India's notorious red tape.

IKEA in a statement described the cabinet decision as a "big step in our journey to open IKEA stores in India", according to the Press Trust of India.

"We feel very confident that the people of India will love to visit and to shop at IKEA," the company's Indian chief executive officer Juvencio Maeztu said in the statement after the government's final nod.

The FIPB gave the plan the green light in January, two months after it had rejected 15 of IKEA's 30 product lines, including food and textiles.

IKEA says it sees a huge potential in India's ready-to-splurge burgeoning middle class.

It was not clear on Thursday whether the original FIPB limitations on food and products remained in place as part of the

new deal.

IKEA had previously told New Delhi the company must be allowed to retain its "global model" in India, retailing all of its products and running its in-store restaurants as it does in every country in which it operates.

The new deal comes after IKEA scrapped plans to enter the market in 2009 due to regulatory concerns.

Singh's government announced a string of pro-market and investor-friendly reforms that relaxed or removed barriers to foreign retailers in September 2012.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

N	I	B	S		S	A	R	A		M	A	D
F	I	L	M		C	L	A	W		B	I	D
L	I	T	E		E	S	C	A	P	A	D	E
				A	L	P			E	K	E	
C	A	R	A	T	S		E	A	R	P		
T	O	P		P	E	P		S	C	O	O	P
W	I	T	H		R	O	B		H	O	S	T
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L	A	N	D	L	O	R	D			E	V	E
O	R	B		L	O	B	E			N	O	V
A	K	A		S	K	I	D			S	W	A

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Cuban regime like a crumbling house: dissident blogger

GENEVA (AFP) - Cuba's communist regime is like an ageing house on the verge of collapse, leading dissident blogger Yoani Sanchez said Thursday, insisting Havana's timid reforms were a smoke-screen.

"The so-called Raulista changes are superficial," Sanchez told reporters, referring to President Raul Castro, who replaced his ailing brother and 1959 revolutionary leader Fidel seven years ago.

"The Cuban model is like a house in Old Havana. You look at the house and ask how it's possible that it's still standing," she said in Geneva, where she was attending a UN human rights meeting.

"Then the owner comes along and wants to change the door. He unscrews one screw, and with that screw, the whole house comes down. The question is, which screw is it going to be?"

She said Cuba's ageing leadership faced a stark "biological reality", growing public criticism, and political change in Venezuela whose oil wealth has kept Havana afloat.

Named by Time magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential people in 2008, Sanchez is largely unknown in her homeland, where the media and Internet are controlled tightly.

"It's unacceptable that in the 21st century, Cuba should be the country in the Western Hemisphere with the least ac-



cess to modern means of communication. There's no excuse beyond the violent fear the government has of the people's access to information," she said.

Sanchez, 37, has been travelling widely since a reform in October that allows Cuban citizens to go abroad for the first time without a reviled and costly exit visa.

She said the world should not be taken in by changes to Cuba's communist command economy.

"The reforms lack depth," she said, adding that the same goes for politics.

"There's no such thing as freedom of association, as freedom of expression, there's no political freedom and no freedom of opposition," she underlined.

Cuban dissidents say the number of political prisoners in the country has fallen from 300 in 2003 to around 50 -- though the government denies there are any at all.

Trade, drug war at center of Obama visit to Mexico



U.S. President Barack Obama meets with President Enrique Pena Nieto of Mexico in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington November 27, 2012.

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - US President Barack Obama headed to Mexico yesterday to put trade back at the heart of bilateral ties, but his southern neighbor's shifting drug war tactics loom large over the visit.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto hosts Obama on the first stop of a three-day trip that will also take him to Costa Rica for a summit with Central

American leaders, with trade, US immigration reform and the battle against drug cartels high on the agenda.

After almost seven years of bloodshed by drug gangs that has left 70,000 people dead in Mexico, Pena Nieto and Obama have both made clear they want to turn the spotlight back on trade ties and other matters.

"We've spent so much time

on security issues between the United States and Mexico that sometimes I think we forget this is a massive trading partner responsible for huge amounts of commerce and huge numbers of jobs on both sides of the border," Obama said on Tuesday.

Twenty years into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), also including Canada, Mexico is Washington's third-ranked trade partner, with \$500 billion exchanged every year.

Mexico and Washington want to "talk about the benefits and the need to re-balance and diversify the relationship," Sergio Alcocer, Mexico's deputy foreign minister for North America, told AFP.

Before Obama's departure, the United States announced the creation of a bilateral forum on higher education, innovation and research to broaden educational exchanges.

But the relationship has been marked by deep cooperation in the fight against powerful drug cartels that make billions of dollars by feeding cocaine, marijuana and heroin to US addicts.

The United States is providing \$1.9 billion in aid, including police training and crime-fighting equipment, to help Mexico fight the drug gangs.

Pena Nieto, who visited Obama in Washington shortly before taking office in December, wants to refocus the drug war on reducing the wave of violence plaguing his country.

While he is keeping troops that were deployed in the streets by his predecessor for now, he has launched a new strategy that includes a crime prevention program and a shift in the way Mexico will work with US law enforcement.

His predecessor, Felipe Calderon, forged unprecedented security ties with Washington by allowing US

agencies to deal directly with Mexican counterparts during his six-year administration.

But the new government wants to channel all security matters through a "one-stop window," the powerful interior ministry, which has been tasked with coordinating Mexico's fight against organized crime.

Obama said he was not yet ready to judge how Pena Nieto's strategy would change security relations until he had spoken to him.

Rights groups want Obama to address the high level of impunity in Mexico, with Reports Without Borders urging the US leader to commit to helping "restore the rule of law and civil liberties" in a country where 86 journalists have been killed in the past 10 years.

Obama then travels to San Jose for a summit with Central American leaders before returning to Washington the next day.

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48, with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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Floyd Mayweather Jr. heavy favorite over Robert 'The Ghost' Guerrero



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-- Forty-three previous fighters have failed to achieve what Gilroy's Robert "The Ghost" Guerrero hopes to pull off Saturday night at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"Man, I'm ready," Guerrero said. "Floyd Mayweather's record is going to get broken, he's going to have his first loss. Better believe that."

The oddsmakers don't believe it. They have installed Mayweather (43-0, 26 knock-outs) as a heavy favorite to stay perfect at the expense of Guerrero (31-1-1, 18 KOs) in their WBC welterweight title bout.

Mayweather, who has held at least one world championship belt continuously since 1998, was listed this week by the MGM Grand sportsbook as minus-700 (bet \$700 to win \$100) to win, while Guerrero is plus-475 (bet \$100 bet to win \$475).

Guerrero isn't the first man who believed he could beat this generation's top pound-for-pound fighter. Mayweather has survived everyone's best punch -- often eluded it -- and maintained an unblemished record.

NBA: Blazers Lillard named NBA's rookie of the year

NEW YORK (AFP) - Guard Damian Lillard, who was the Portland Trail Blazers sixth overall draft pick in 2012, has been named Wednesday as the National Basketball Association's top rookie.

Lillard was a unanimous selection for the award after averaging 19.0 points and 6.5 assists in 82 games this past season.

He beat out New Orleans Hornets centre Anthony Davis and Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal who finished second and third in voting by North American sportswriters.

The six-foot-three point guard is the fourth member of the Trail Blazers to win the award. He joins Geoff Petrie (1971), Sidney Wicks (1972) and Brandon Roy (2007).

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SPORTS

Baseball: Chamberlain joins Yankees injured list

NEW YORK (AFP) - The New York Yankees, already hammered by injuries, received another blow on Thursday when pitcher Joba Chamberlain was placed on Major League Baseball's disabled list with a right oblique muscle strain.

In 9 1/3 innings pitched in 10 appearances this season, Chamberlain is 0-0 with a 3.86 earned-run average. The 27-year-old right-hander has not pitched since tossing a scoreless ninth inning Saturday to earn a save against Toronto.

Chamberlain has struck out seven batters and walked six in a relief role. His stint on the 15-day disabled list will be retroactive to Sunday.

The Yankees now have almost \$100 million in team payroll on the disabled list, including stars Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and Mark Teixeira plus Curtis Granderson, Kevin Youkilis, Francisco Cervelli, Michael Pineda and Ivan Nova.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said the Yankees were "looking at sometime after the All-Star break" in July for the return of shortstop Jeter, the 38-year-old team captain recovering from a broken left ankle.

Third baseman Rodriguez, 37, is recovering from off-season hip surgery.

Despite the setbacks, the Yankees are 17-10 and only two games behind the arch-rival Boston Red Sox for the American League East division lead after the first month of the six-month North American season.



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NBA: Harden returns to haunt Thunder as Rockets stay alive

OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) - James Harden scored 31 points as Houston kept their NBA first-round play-off hopes alive with a 107-100 win over Oklahoma City in game five here Wednesday.

Playing against his former Thunder team-mates, Harden drained his first seven three-point attempts for the youthful Rockets who now trail the best-of-seven series three games to two.

"The guys are battling," said Houston coach Kevin McHale. "You got to go out there and fight every single night."

Harden, who helped lead the Thunder to the NBA finals last

season where they lost to the Miami Heat, shot just four-of-25 from three-point range in the first four games against Oklahoma City.

Houston played without starting point guard Jeremy Lin for the second straight game because of a bruised chest muscle.

But the Thunder missed all-star point guard Russell Westbrook even more Wednesday. Westbrook tore his lateral meniscus, underwent surgery and is done for the season.

The teams head back to Houston for game six of the Western Conference series

today.

The Rockets will be trying to make history in this series as no NBA team has ever come back from being down 3-0 to win a best-of-seven series.

"We got another opportunity at home and we are going to take advantage of it," Harden said. "Tomorrow we will watch some film and get ready for game six."

Turkey's Omer Asik finished with 21 points and 11 rebounds but his biggest impact came on the free-throw line down the stretch.

Asik made 13-of-18 free throws as he helped keep Houston in control late in the fourth quarter with the Thunder looking to foul him at every opportunity.

"He hit his free throws," said Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks. "He stepped up. Give him credit because he hit his shots. It is a strategy we don't use very often."

And it backfired Wednesday against Houston which shot 47 percent from the floor, made 14 three-pointers and had six players score in double figures.

"He was great. He made most of them and that is all that matters," Harden said of Asik.

The Thunder made just eight-of-33 from beyond the arc, losing for the second-consecutive game after winning the first three.

Kevin Durant was held scoreless in the fourth quarter and finished with 36 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Thunder.

Reggie Jackson -- starting in Westbrook's place -- had 20 points, while Serge Ibaka finished with 14 points and nine rebounds in the loss.

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PALO ALTO

Football: Press delight at Germany's 'dream final'



BERLIN (AFP) - There was widespread joy in the German press on Thursday as Bayern Munich's 3-0 win at Barcelona means the Bavarians will face Borussia Dortmund in an all-German Champions League final on May 25 -- the first time two Bundesliga clubs will meet for the European Cup.

After Bayern had trounced Barca at Munich's Allianz Arena 4-0 in the semi-final first leg, Jupp Heynckes' side booked their third Champions League final in four years with Wednesday's second leg romp at the Camp Nou for a 7-0 aggregate win.

They will face arch-rivals Dortmund at Wembley after

Borussia came through their semi-final 4-3 on aggregate against Real Madrid after Poland's Robert Lewandowski scored four goals in their 4-1 first-leg victory before Real won the return 2-0 in Madrid on Tuesday.

"We are the Champions League - Bayern destroy Barca!" boasted Bild, a play on the April 2005 headline when Germany's Benedikt XVI was elected Pope under the headline "We're the P Barca team who are usually excellent," adds Die Welt.

Bayern, who won this season's Bundesliga title with a record six games to spare, are at second-placed Dortmund on Saturday in the German league in a dress-rehearsal for the Champions League final in London.



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